

stituted the principal factor in the
downfall of the
Empire. There was another
and a still

He made more potent reason
Rasputin destroyed
the throne contemptible idolatrous reverence
which surrounded the person as well as the throne
of the Czar, and which was essential to
sustain the
spirit of endurance and sacrifice which
alone could
carry the nation through a succession of
calamitous
defeats accompanied by unparalleled loss
of young
lives. As the War went wrong, the
Czar's power
came to depend more upon fear than
upon worship.
As long as that fear remained, his
authority was
paramount. Then came the death of
Rasputin to
shatter the delusion of his irresistible
power. The
Czar's assassination of his intimate
friend by
authority men who boasted openly of
their crime
destroyed by without anyone daring to
punish them
his murder extinguished the lightnings of
authority.
Dread of the thunders of Imperial Jove
quickly
disappeared once their futility was
exposed. In his
lifetime Rasputin undermined all
respect for the
Czar. In death he swept away the last
remnant of
fear of that potentate. The bullet that
killed him
penetrated the heart of Czarism. He
predicted not
only his own violent death, but also that
his murder
would bring down the Empire in less than
six months.
And so it did.
The Czar was insane with anger at the
murder,

and stimulated by his wife he sank into a mood of infatuated hostility against all those who *C*tar's anger did not attempt to conceal their delight at the event. It widened the already yawning crevasse between him and the intelligentsia which was represented by the Duma. The Duma had at its first meetings exhibited a